

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 876
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY
AMCONSUL TORONTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUEBEC 0036

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: TRUDEAU BEGINS QUEBEC CITY VISIT WITH APPEAL TO
QUEBECOIS TO RESIST PROPAGANDA

1. SPEAKING THURSDAY NIGHT TO LIBERAL PARTY RALLY IN LANGELIER RIDING, PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU PLEADED WITH QUEBECOIS NOT TO TURN THEIR BACKS ON CANADA. HE URGED QUEBECERS TO RESIST PROPAGANDA AIMED AT CONVINCING THEM THEIR FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES ARE TRAITORS. TRUDEAU PRAISED VIRTUES OF FEDERALISM AND NEED TO PRESERVE IT FROM "GANGRENE" OF SEPARATISM. TRUDEAU TOLD HIS AUDIENCE THAT THEY DID NOT BECOME "QUEBECOIS" THE DAY PQ GOVERNMENT WAS ELECTED. THEY HAVE ALSO BEEN CANADIANS FOR 300 YEARS, HE ADDED, STRESSING THE STRONG ROOTS FRENCH-CANADIANS HAVE THROUGHOUT CANADA. IF QUEBEC SEPARATED, THE ONE MILLION FRENCH-CANADIANS OUTSIDE QUEBEC WOULD BE QUICKLY ASSIMILATED INTO ENGLISH-CANADIAN MAINSTREAM, HE CONCLUDED.

2. PREMIER LEVESQUE SAID YESTERDAY THAT TRUDEAU WAS POSING AS THE SAVIOR OF CONFEDERATION IN ORDER TO BOAST HIS SAGGING POPULARITY ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SUCH AN ATTITUDE IS REMINISCENT OF TRUDEAU'S ASCENT TO POWER IN 1968 WHEN HE TRIED TO TELL CANADIANS THAT THE

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LIBERALS WERE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN CONTROL QUEBEC, THE PREMIER SAID.

3. COMMENT: TRUDEAU'S SPEECH WAS THE FIRST PUBLIC RALLY IN THREE DAY VISIT WHICH WIDELY SEEN HERE AS OPENING OF CAMPAIGN FOR FIVE BYELECTIONS IN QUEBEC THIS SPRING. MAJOR SPEECH OF VISIT WILL BE DELIVERED TODAY BEFORE CHAMBER

OF COMMERCE. AT RECEPTION YESTERDAY EVENING, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PRESIDENT LOUIS BOUDREAU TOLD US THAT TURDEAU SPEECH TODAY
HAS RAISED EXPECTATIONS TO INCREDIBLY HIGH LEVEL AND PM IS AWARE THAT
HE MUST DELIBER IMPORTANT STATEMENT. HE SAID BUSINESSMEN IN
QUEBEC EXPECT PM TO ADOPT LESS INFLEXIBLE STANCE THAN PREVIOUSLY ON
QUESTION OF QUEBEC'S PLACE IN CONFEDERATION. AT SAME
RECEPTION, QUEBEC CITY MAYOR LAMONTAGNE TOLD US THAT HE
MAY WELL BE A LIBERAL CANDIDATE IN FORTHCOMING BYELECTIONS
BUT THAT HE HAD NOT YET MADE FINAL DECISION. HIS MANNERISMS
INDICATED HE WAS NOT YET SURE LIBERALS CAN CARRY TWO RIDINGS IN
THIS AREA.
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